

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 DHA-02 AF-08 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5904

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7602

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UR US XF PLO

SUBJECT: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW

SUMMARY: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW COINCIDES WITH SADAT
VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IZVESTIYA CARRIES A HARD LINE
ARTICLE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS AND IN OPPOSITION
TO ASPECTS OF U.S. ME POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. LONG RUMORED VISIT TO MOSCOW OF PLO CHIEFTAIN
ARAFAT HAS FINALLY MATERIALIZED, PROBABLY NOT BY
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COINCIDENCE, ON THE SAME DAY THAT PRESIDENT SADAT
BEGINS HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WITH REGARD TO
LATTER VISIT, APRIL 5 PRAVDA HAS TASS WASHINGTON
ARTICLE WITH TITLE AND SUBJECT ON SADAT'S "ORIENTA-
TION TOWARD WASHINGTON". APRIL 4 IZVESTIYA CARRIED
LONG ARTICLE ON PALESTINIANS BY SENIOR COLUMNIST
V. KUDRYAVTSEV (WEARING HIS HAT AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

OF SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES). WITH USUAL SARCASM KUDRYAVTSEV CRITICIZES U.S. (AND ARAB REACTIONARIES) IN GENERAL AND PRESIDENT CARTER IN PARTICULAR FOR POLICIES DESIGNED TO FAVOR ISRAEL AT EXPENSE OF PALESTINIANS. WEAVING IN THEME OF WESTERN HYPOCRISY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, KUDRYAVTSEV DERIDES ALLEGED (U.S.) POLICY OF "COMESTICATION" OF PALESTINIANS, OF "DEFENISBLE BORDERS" FOR ISRAEL (DESCRIBED AS "MOVEABLE BORDERS"), AND OF PALESTINIAN MOTHERLAND - "RODINA" - (DESCRIBED AS A "MOVEABLE MOTHERLAND". NOTE: ONE RUSSIAN WORD FOR PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" AS USED BY PRESIDENT WOULD BE "OCHAG", NOT "RODINA" - MOTHERLAND. BUT "OCHAG" WAS TERM USED BY SOVIETS WHEN THEY FIRST GAVE SUPPORT TO IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN HOME AND KUDRYAVTSEV MAY NOT WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THIS SIMILARITY.) IN STRONG WORDS, HE SAYS PALESTINIANS ALREADY HAVE A MOTHERLAND, ONE WHICH WAS TAKEN FROM THEM BY THE ZIONISTS WITH SUPPORT OF OVERSEAS GUARDIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ONE WHICH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PALESTINIANS.

3. KUDRYAVTSEV SAYS THAT PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) DECISION ON PLO PARTICIPATION IN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON BASIS OF UNGA RESOLUTION 3236 ALLOWS PLO EXCOM TO APPROACH "MORE FLEXIBLY" THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN SUCH CONFERENCES WITHOUT SANCTION OF PNC. KUDRYAVTSEV ADDS THAT, "OBVIOUSLY," ON THE BASIS OF THIS DECISION, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONSHIP OF THE PLO TOWARD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE DETERMINED.

4. WE NOTE THAT KOSYGIN'S APRIL 4 DINNER SPEECH TO VISITING TUNISIAN PM NOUIRA INCLUDED YET ANOTHER VARIATION ON THEME OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION, THIS TIME SAYING THAT, "IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A DELEGATION OF THE PALESTINE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT TAKE ITS PLACE AT THE BABLE OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: AN ARAFAT VISIT AFTER PNC HAD LONG BEEN RUMORED IN MOSCOW AND TIMING OF PRESENT VISIT SEEMS NORMAL. SOVIETS WILL BE SEEING ASAD IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND, HAVING ALREADY SEE IRAQ'S SADAM HUSSEIN AND LIBYAN LEADER QADAFY, WILL BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO PUT TOGETHER THEIR COMPLETE ME POLICY PICTURE PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN MAY. EGYPT, OF COURSE, IS THE BIG GAP IN THAT PICTURE AND IT MAY BE THAT

ARAFAT'S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW AT THE SAME TIME AS
SADAT'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON IS NO COINCIDENCE,
BUT IS DESIGNED TO SHOW BOTH CAIRO AND WASHINGTON
THAT THE SOVIET UNION STILL HAS SOME CARDS TO PLAY
DESPITE THE LOSS OF EGYPT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Subject: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW SUMMARY: ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW COINCIDES WITH SADAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IZVESTIYA CARRIES A HARD LINE
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER)
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